

REMARKS

Claims 1-38 currently remain in the application. Claims 1, 14, 19, 32, 33, 37 and 38 have been amended. Claims 39-42 have been added. Applicant believes the new claims do not add new matter.

*Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102*

Claims 1-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Wells, et al. EP 1,120,757 and provisional rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by copending application 09/491,899. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention, as recited in the pending claims, describes "printing the player authentication data on the cashless gaming instrument when the instrument is issued at the gaming machine; and requiring validation of the player instrument authentication data on the cashless gaming instrument for negotiation of the cashless gaming instrument." This method and apparatus for performing this method on a gaming machine are not described in Wells. Thus, Wells can't be said to anticipate claims 1-38 and the anticipation rejection of claims 1-38 is believed overcome thereby.

Claims 33-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Weiss (USPN 6, 511, 377). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Weiss describes accessing credits using a PIN activated keypad on the gaming machine. A smart card can be used in this process. Weiss does not describe a cashless gaming instrument, comprising an instrument medium and player authentication data identifying a gaming player as owner of the cashless instrument printed on the instrument medium when the instrument medium is issued at a gaming machine wherein negotiation of the cashless gaming instrument requires validation of the player authentication data printed on the cashless gaming instrument. Therefore,

Weiss can't be said to anticipate claims 33-38 and the anticipation rejection of claims 33-38 is believed overcome thereby.

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17-22, 24-26, 29, 30 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Green (USPN 5, 954, 583). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Green describes a smart key for providing credits to a gaming machine. The key can store identification information and image data. Green does not teach, as described in the pending claims, "printing the player authentication data on the cashless gaming instrument when the instrument is issued at the gaming machine; and requiring validation of the player instrument authentication data printed on the cashless gaming instrument for negotiation of the cashless gaming instrument." Therefore, Green can't be said to anticipate claims 1-4, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17-22, 24-26, 29, 30 and 32 and the anticipation rejection of the claims is believed overcome thereby.

#### *Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103*

The Examiner rejected claims 5, 13, 16 and 23 and 5 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Green (USPN 5, 954, 583).

The Examiner rejected claims 9, 10, 27 and 28 and 5 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Green (USPN 5, 954, 583) in view of Van Alphen, WO 94/16416.

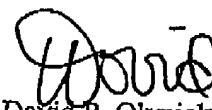
The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Green, above, has been distinguished from the present invention. Van Alphen also describes a card based system. Neither reference teaches or suggests printing player authentication data on the cashless gaming instrument when the instrument is issued at the gaming machine; and requiring validation of the player instrument authentication data on the cashless gaming instrument for negotiation of the cashless gaming instrument. Therefore, for at

least these reasons, Green alone or in combination with Van Alphen can't be said to render obvious the present invention as recited in the pending claims.

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,  
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP



David P. Olynick  
Reg. No.: 48,615

P.O. Box 778  
Berkeley, CA 94704-0778  
510-843-6200